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City of Asheville

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Background information: Attached file "Task Force Progress Report Oct. 26.doc"

**CIVIC CENTER TASK FORCE ISSUES OCT. 26 PROGRESS REPORT - NEXT  
MEETING NOV. 21**

The community coalition charged with developing a recommendation for the future of the Asheville Civic Center will hold its second meeting on Monday, Nov. 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the Civic Center banquet hall.

The group began a five-month process to hear from the public, interview stakeholders and research options for the Civic Center's future at its first meeting on Oct. 26. At that meeting, the group developed a series of guiding principles that state the task force will:

- Work with an open perspective to represent all citizens and the best interests of the community;
- Effectively manage time and resources to stay on schedule and present a recommendation to City Council on Feb 28;
- Involve the public and enter into a community dialogue with a broad spectrum of citizens and key stakeholder groups; and,
- Develop a finite, well-defined and realistic recommendation behind which the city, county and community can unite.

"The entire task force is dedicated to engaging the public and considering a wide range of perspectives and expertise," said Councilman Jan Davis. The task force appointed Davis as its chairman at the Oct. 26 meeting.

"We're also committed to action and developing a recommendation that the public, the city, the county and the state can all support," explained Davis.

According to a progress report issued today by the task force, the group plans to hear from entertainment professionals, business representatives, community leaders, sports industry professionals and local arts supporters in addition to the public. The next step in that process is scheduled for the Nov. 21 meeting, when the task force will receive a panel presentation from facility users including a broad range of event experts. Panelists will be listed at [www.ashevillenc.gov](http://www.ashevillenc.gov) as they are confirmed.

All task force meetings are open to the community and taped for air on the Asheville Channel, Charter Cable channel 11. The task force offers the opportunity for public comment at every meeting.

City Council created the task force after a special Civic Center work session in September. In addition to Davis, task force members include Councilwoman Terry Bellamy, Mayor Charles Worley, Civic Center Commission Chair Max Alexander, Tourism Development Authority representative Ron Storto and Asheville Center for the Performing Arts representative Sidney Powell. The Buncombe County Commission is expected to appoint a representative to the task force at its Nov. 8 meeting.

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